

The Times' Daily Short Story.

AN EPISODE OF THE REIGN OF TERROR

(Original.)

During the French revolution Mme. de Four and Mme. Breton, two friends, found themselves on opposite sides. Mme. de Four's husband took sides with the revolutionists, while M. Breton was a royalist. One day Mme. Breton came hastily from her chateau and told her friend that young Victor Breton was to be arrested.

An arrest during the reign of terror meant death. The young man must be concealed, and the two women hurriedly consulted as to how this could be best accomplished. Mme. de Four finally agreed that he should come to her house, provided he could be taken there without being seen. But how was this to be done? It was morning, and as the arrest was liable to take place that afternoon he must go in broad daylight. In fact, the revolutionary committee had him already under surveillance till they could make other important arrests and find time to attend to his case. Therefore, since the mother and her friend could not wait for darkness, some disguise was essential, and as the boy was only twenty, had no beard, but did have a pair of pink cheeks, they decided to put him into girl's clothes. Young Breton, having donned feminine attire, walked down the road, passing "citizens" who were watching to see that he did not leave the house. Mme. de Four picked him up in her carriage, and he drove with her to her chateau. Once there, he was introduced as Mme. de Four's niece.

The risk Mme. de Four was running in concealing a royalist kept her in an agony of fear, for if discovered she would fall under the ban of the revolutionists. She would have better taken her husband or at least her daughter into her confidence. Louise de Four was only eighteen, but was far beyond her years in good sense. Besides, women are far better fitted for aiding and abetting such concealment than men. Madame's keeping her secret from Louise resulted in its getting to the revolutionists. Louise spoke to a friend about her cousin, wondering why she had never heard of her before and why she always kept her room. This friend told the police.

One evening there was a stormy scene at the de Four's. M. de Four came home and told his wife that he was suspected of harboring young Breton. Madame confessed to her husband, and, the danger threatening the whole family being of the greatest moment, Louise was called into the conference. She saw at once that in her ignorance she had put the bounds on the secret. But now that she knew all she proved the most fertile of any of them in expedient. She laid a plan and at once put it in operation.

It was just after dusk that a corporal and six men, accompanied by a woman, reached the de Four chateau. The lamps were lighted, but turned low.

"Corporal," said M. de Four, "proceed with your search. The premises are at your service, and if any royalist is hiding here I hope you will find him."

"H'm," said the corporal, who knew well who was suspected. "Summon the inmates of the chateau."

This was done, and when all were assembled the corporal at once turned his attention to the niece who had lately come and who was present with the others.

"Who is this person?" asked the corporal.

"My niece, Julie de Four," replied Mme. de Four.

"And this?"

"My daughter."

"Mme. Renaud," said the corporal to the woman who had accompanied him, "take Mlle. Julie de Four aside and see if she is a woman."

The woman called the niece to one end of the room and ordered her to unbutton her dress from the throat.

"What?" she exclaimed. "Is it really so? She's a woman."

"By gar! Who has put us to all this trouble for nothing?" exclaimed the corporal.

"If it is any one in this house," said M. de Four with dignity, "I demand to be informed who he or she is!"

"Monsieur need not suspect any one here. The information came from the outside. I am sorry to have troubled so good a friend to the cause. Monsieur, I bid you good evening."

With that he led his men and the woman, Renaud, away. As soon as they had gone M. and Mme. de Four, Louise and the niece went upstairs and entered a room for conference.

She who had been Louise took the hand of her who had been the niece and said:

"A thousand thanks, mademoiselle. I owe you my life!"

"Yes, and you came pretty near owing me your death. It was I who innocently gave you away."

Louise took off a wig and going to a basin began to wash paint from her face. During the process part of her nose came off, a thin slice of her cheeks and the point of her chin. She had made herself up to play the part of the suspected niece and Victor Breton was similarly altered to look like her.

The next day Mme. de Four with Julie (Victor Breton) drove to the hotel whence the post started for Paris, the niece took her departure and the same evening Victor, in man's attire, left the capital with a party of emigrants for the border. When the Bourbons were restored he entered the service of the king and was instrumental in saving from banishment M. de Four, who had become prominent as a revolutionist. The families were, however, meanwhile united in the marriage of Victor and Louise.

MARY ALICE BERESFORD.

OHIO BOY'S ODD MANIA.

Upper Sandusky Lad Wants to Inhale the Fumes of Gasoline.

A young boy afflicted with the strangest mania on record and one that is both attracting the attention and puzzling medical science arrived in Toledo, O., recently and became a special inmate of the Toledo State hospital.

The boy is Raymond Thayer, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Thayer of Upper Sandusky. The lad's mania is for the absorption of the fumes of gasoline, for which he has an insatiable desire. This strange peculiarity has been characteristic of the boy since he first began to creep about, and the habit seems to grow stronger upon him with age.

His every thought is for the possession of gasoline, and his parents have found that he procures it despite their precautions to keep it from him. As many as four gasoline cans, the contents of which had been consumed by the boy, are said to have been found by the parents about the house.

The strange mania of the lad is attracting wide attention, and medical science is unable as yet to account for it. Through the kindly offices of L. C. Cole of Bowling Green, a member of the board of trustees of the Toledo State hospital, who has become interested in the boy's case, the lad was brought to Toledo and placed in the special care of Dr. H. A. Tobey, who will study his action and make a record of the case day by day.

New Weather Observatory.

Professor Willis L. Moore, chief of the weather bureau, returned to New York recently on the Deutschland from the meeting of the international committee of directors of government weather services and the directors of private observatories held at Southampton, England. "Secretary Wilson a year ago authorized me," said Professor Moore, "to purchase ground and build and install a complete meteorological and scientific observatory. We have purchased sixty miles square of land west of Washington in the Blue Ridge mountains, 1,500 feet above sea level. Buildings are in course of erection. In this observatory we propose to study the higher problems of meteorology, the various forms of solar energy, in their relation to terrestrial weather. One of my objects in going to Europe was to buy some special apparatus that would be useful to us in carrying on this research work."

Great Letter Writers.

The United States postal department handles 7,250,000 letters and cards a year, a number about equal to that of Great Britain, Germany and France taken together.

PEARY AND THE POLE.

Since America has retained the cup Peary is anxious to secure the north pole. We can then open up a national barber shop—Nashville American.

Robert E. Peary, having obtained a three year leave of absence, will make another try for the pole. Mr. Peary at least deserves credit for the way he sticks to his job.—Syracuse Post Standard.

Maybe Commander Peary will name the ship in which he is to make his next dash for the pole the Reliance. As far as it has been tried it has proved to be as good as it sounds.—Boston Herald.

Big Gold Mines Consolidate. Colorado Springs, Colo., Oct. 10.—An announcement is made of the consolidation of the Isabella, the Orphan Bell and the Empire gold mining companies, three of the best known and most valuable claims of the Cripple Creek district, into the Isabella Mines company, a Wyoming corporation. The stock of the constituent companies aggregates \$4,250,000.

Binghamton Opera House Burned. Binghamton, N. Y., Oct. 10.—Fire which started on the stage of Stone Opera House almost completely gutted the structure, entailing a loss of \$75,000. The theater was one of the finest appointed in the state. Paul Gilmore's company played "The Mummy and the Humming Bird," but all the scenery had been removed before the fire began.

Postage to China.

Postage between the United States and China in places served by the United States postal agency at Shanghai is now at the same rates as domestic postage. Two cents will carry a letter from any part of the United States to Tientsin, Foochow and many other districts in China.

A "Loop the Loop" Railway.

The crookedest railway in the world is one from Boswell to Friedland, Pa. The air line distance being five miles. The road doubles on itself four times, and at one point, after making a loop of about five miles, the road comes back to within 300 feet of itself on a grade fifty feet lower.

Phosphorus Toughens Aluminum.

According to a German patent the toughness and durability of aluminum can be much increased by the addition of phosphorus. The addition of 7 to 15 per cent makes the metal extremely hard and tough and well adapted for forgings. Three per cent produces a good borschese metal, and with a 2 per cent addition it can be easily rolled.

CHAMBERLAIN'S APPEAL TO BRITISH VOTERS

Ex-Colonial Secretary Defines His Position.

HIS TARIFF VIEWS EXPUNDED.

A Plea For Qualified Protection and a Warning That Great Britain is on the Verge of a Struggle For Existence—The American Tariff Stigmatized as an Abomination.

When Joseph Chamberlain retired from the British cabinet because of Premier Balfour's failure to adopt his views concerning a tariff on food products it was on one hand predicted that Chamberlain as a political factor had gone out of existence, while by a large section of the public it was contended that he would make good his threat to inaugurate a vigorous campaign in support of his views and that when the next elections were held it would be found that Chamberlain had made the shrewdest play possible toward furthering his ambition to become prime minister of England. In his first speech in pursuance of his declared purpose, delivered at Glasgow, Scotland, while Mr. Chamberlain specifically disclaimed any desire to succeed Mr. Balfour, whom he eulogized, he stated his position in a manner designed to appeal directly to the voters. The salient features of the speech are given herewith:

"I do not regard this as a party meeting. I am no longer a party leader, but an outsider. I do not think it right to raise any exclusive party issues, but after what has occurred since we have met here:



JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN.

the meeting at Sheffield a word or two might be given me to say that, though I am no longer a leader, I am still a loyal servant of the party whose union and strength are essential to the welfare of the empire and which has found a leader whom every member may be proud to follow.

"It seems as though in this country there have always been men who do not know the meaning of loyalty and friendship. To them I say that nothing they may do will have the slightest influence to effect in the slightest degree the friendship and confidence existing between the premier and myself. To my friends and supporters in the great struggle on which I have entered I say: Give no encouragement to mean or libelous insinuations, for in no conceivable circumstances will I allow myself to be put in any sort of competition, direct or indirect, with my friend and leader.

"I have invited discussion upon a question peculiarly within my province owing to my past life and the office I so recently held. Taking up the position of a pioneer, I go in front of the army. If the army is attacked, I will return to it. I am always an optimist. It is possible that the nation may be prepared to go further than the official programme. I now ask the question, is it so prepared? Great Britain in the past has played a great part in the world's history. I desire her to continue and see the realization of the great ideal of an empire such as the world has never seen. If that is to be attained, this matter should be treated on its merits without any personal feeling or bitterness and without entering on questions of purely party controversy."

The former colonial secretary alluded to the recent visit he paid to Venice, when he found the campanile, which had stood for centuries and which when he previously visited Venice seemed as permanent as the city itself, now a mass of ruins. He continued:

"I do not say that I anticipate such a fate for the British empire, but I do say that I see signs of decay, cracks and crevices showing that the foundations are not broad and deep enough to sustain it. Am I wrong to warn you? Is it not strange and inconsistent that the same people who indicted the government for its unpreparedness in the South African war should now denounce me in language equally extravagant because I want to prepare you for a struggle so serious that if we are defeated the country will lose its place among the great nations, a struggle which we are invited to meet with antiquated methods and tactics?"

Adding statistics, Mr. Chamberlain contrasted the moderate increase of

7½ per cent in the export trade of Great Britain and the increase of 30 per cent in her population since 1872 with the enormous increases of trade in the United States and Germany, and he asked how the country could expect to support its growing population with its trade practically stagnant for thirty years. He proceeded:

"On the other hand, the protected countries which you have been told and I myself one time believed, were going rapidly to wreck and ruin have progressed infinitely better in proportion than ourselves, and instead of, as Cobden believed, our remaining the workshop for the world we are sending less and less of our manufactures abroad, while the protected countries are sending more and more of their manufactures here. Thus our manufactured exports from £116,000,000 in 1872 have gradually dwindled to £73,500,000 in 1902 to the protected countries of Europe and the United States.

"In the same period our exports to nonmanufacturing countries like Egypt, China and South America have practically remained unchanged. This loss of trade to the protected countries has not been noticed hitherto because during the same period our exports to the British colonies have increased in ratio to counterbalance this loss and are now more valuable than our trade with the whole of Europe and the United States together. Our colonial trade, in fact, is the most rapidly increasing, important and valuable of all our trade. Meanwhile foreign exports to the United Kingdom have risen from £33,000,000 in 1872 to £149,000,000 in 1902. I do not comment on that, but when I am told that we ought to hold the same opinions as our ancestors I reply that we should if the circumstances remained the same.

"I have made these figures clear. It is plain that our imperial trade is essential to our prosperity. If it declines or fails to increase in proportion to our population and to the loss of our foreign trade then we shall sink into a fifth rate nation. We have reached our highest point, and I am not certain but that some of my opponents regard that with absolute complacency. I have the misfortune to be an optimist. I do not believe in the setting of the British star, but then I do not believe in the folly of the British people. I trust them and trust the working classes. I have confidence that they who are our masters, electorally speaking, will have the intelligence to see that they must wake up, that they must meet the new conditions with an altogether new policy.

"Have you ever considered why Canada takes a so much larger amount per head of British manufactures than the United States, Australasia three as much as Canada and South Africa more than Australasia? These are all protective countries. I see that some of our labor leaders are persuading the workmen to maintain the system of free imports. I undertake to say that not one of them could visit the colonies for six months without slaying a different tune. The vast majority of the workmen in the colonies are protectionists, and I am disinclined to accept the easy explanation that they are all fools. I fail to understand why a man who is intelligent here becomes an idiot when he goes to Australasia. He does, however, get rid of a number of old world prejudices and superstitions.

"Now, what is the history of protection? First, there is tariff and no industries. Then gradually primary industries for which the country has natural facilities grow up behind the tariff wall. Then, secondly, industries spring up—first of necessities, then of luxuries, until at last all the ground is covered.

"The countries to which I have referred are in different stages of the protective process. In the United States the process is completed. She produces everything and excludes everything. There is no trade to be done with her for a paltry 6 shillings a head. Canada has been protective a long time. The principal industries are there, and you can never get rid of them, but the secondary industries have not yet been created, and there is an immense trade still open to you to maintain and increase. Australasia is less developed and takes more than Canada. In the Cape there are practically no industries.

"We can intervene now, but it is doubtful whether we could intervene twenty years hence. We can say to our great colonies: We understand your views and aspirations and do not desire to dictate, or think ourselves superior to you; we recognize your right to develop your industries so as not to be dependent on foreign supplies, but there are many things you do not know how to make for which we have a great capacity of production; leave them to us, do not increase the tariff walls against us, let us exchange with you for your productions. Do it because we are kinsmen, because it is good for the empire as a whole and because we have taken the first step and set you the example. We offer you a preference; we rely upon your patriotism and your affection that we shall not be losers thereby.

"Suppose we had made such an offer to the United States and Germany ten or twenty years ago; do you suppose that we should not have been able to retain a great deal of what we have now lost and cannot recover? I will give you an illustration. America is the strictest of protective nations. It has a tariff which to me is an abomination, it is so immoderate, unreasonable and unnecessary, and although America has profited enormously I think it has been carried to excessive lengths, and I believe that a great number of intelligent Americans would gladly negotiate with us for its reduction. But until very recent times even this immoderate tariff left us the great tin plate trade, amounting to millions of pounds per annum, and which we

Could Kick a Dog.

You are mad at everything, says the Romoc man to the over-worked, nerve-broken-down business man. I have seen people just like you before; almost willing to break up your home on account of those irritating nerves of yours. Now, take my advice and get over this nervousness. There is no need of it. Just take Romoc and it will not be very many days before you will find that your nerves are quieter and stronger. Your digestion will immediately improve and your appetite increase. Little things will cease to irritate you. Romoc, you know, is Nature's own remedy. It tones up the entire system and is just better for you than drugs that break build up, or remedies which contain poisons may lift you up for a while.

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might have kept if we had given some reciprocal advantage. It would not have been worth America's while to put a duty upon an article for which it had no particular use or special aptitude.

"If we had made some such concessions to Germany we should still have been exporting to that country many articles the market for which is now closed to us. Were we to lose the colonial as we have lost our foreign trade we should have arrived at the parting of the ways. If the opportunity is not seized now it will not recur. Canada will fall to the level of the United States, Australasia to the level of Canada and South Africa to the level of Australasia, and that would be the beginning of a general decline which would rob us of our most important trade."

Mr. Chamberlain said he believed that the colonies are prepared to meet us in return for a very moderate preference. They would reserve to us the trade we already enjoy and would also arrange their tariffs in the future in order not to start industries in competition with those already in existence in the mother country, and not only would they enable us to retain our trade with them, but they would give us preference on all trade done with them by our foreign competitors.

The colonial trade thus secured, said the speaker, would be sufficient to afford employment to 615,000 workmen at 30 shillings a week and, calculating their families, to give subsistence to 3,075,000 persons. That had been called a squallid argument; therefore he appealed on the higher ground that the privileges of empire brought with them great responsibilities. He had spoken with many colonists who believed that the present colonial relations could not be permanent. They must either be drawn closer together or they would drift apart, an opinion shared by Lord Rosebery, a statesman whose instincts were always right, though his actions often lagged behind his instincts.

He believed that it was only by a commercial union and reciprocal preference that they could lay the foundations of a federation of the empire, to which they all looked as a brilliant possibility. He wished to repeat explicitly that he did not wish to tax raw materials used in British manufactures. Therefore it was evident that if they wanted to prevent repatriation there must be a preferential tax on food. That was the great cry of his opponents, and it was true, but it was only half the truth, because those opponents forgot to add his explanation that nothing he proposed would add one farthing to the cost of living of any working-man or of any family in the country.

With regard to his plan he would state it briefly. He proposed to put a low duty, not exceeding 2 shillings a quarter, on foreign corn, but none on corn from the British possessions. He proposed no tax on maize, partly because it formed the food of some of the very poorest among the population and partly because it was raw material as feeding stuff. He proposed a corresponding tax on flour, and he would give special preference to the miller, with the object of re-establishing one of Britain's ancient industries and of preventing a rush from the country to the town and also of placing corn, oil and feeding stuffs more cheaply within the possession of the farmer.

A small tax of about 5 per cent on foreign meat and dairy produce would be imposed, excluding bacon, which was the food of so many of the poorest population. Lastly, he proposed to give a substantial preference to the colonies on wines and fruits.

Against these increases he proposed some great remissions. He proposed to take off three-quarters of the duty on tea, half the duty on sugar, with corresponding reductions on cocoa and

coffee. The net result of these impositions and remissions would be that the town artisan's food would, according to the most elaborate calculation, cost him twopenny halfpenny less a week than it did at present, while that of the agricultural laborer would cost him twopenny less; but if, as he believed, a great part of the tax on food would be paid by the foreigner, there would be a reduction in the cost of food both for the artisan and the agricultural laborer.

The loss to the exchequer he estimated at £2,800,000, but that and more he proposed to find in another branch of the policy of fiscal reform which was sometimes called retaliation and sometimes reciprocity. He hoped, for one thing, that the other countries would reduce their duties so that worse things might not come upon them, but he thought that Great Britain would also have to raise hers. A moderate duty of 10 per cent in manufactured goods, varying according to the amount of labor in them, would give to the exchequer £9,000,000 a year, and if he were chancellor of the exchequer he would make use of that sum for the remission of taxation.

The question was, What would the colonies do? He believed they would treat generously any offer Great Britain might make. Mr. Chamberlain concluded:

"It is because I sympathize with their object and appreciate the generosity of their offer—it is for these things and for no personal ambition that I have given up the office I was so proud to hold and that now, when I might, I think, fairly claim a period of rest, I have taken up new burdens and come before you as a missionary of the empire to urge upon you again, as in old times when I protested against a disruption of the United Kingdom, once again to warn you, to urge you, to implore you to do nothing that will tend toward the disintegration of the empire, not to refuse to sacrifice futile superstition and inept prejudice and thereby to lose the result of centuries of noble effort and patriotic endeavor."

Stories Without Foundation.

Speaking of cremation, the London Lancet expresses the opinion that the chances of a living body thought to be dead being reduced to ashes are too indefinitely remote to merit attention. In the vast majority of instances there is no real foundation for the stories of premature burial or intended burial.

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